



WATER \$ENSE

The Environmental Protection Agency states that average household leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year, enough for 270 loads of laundry. Here are some common problem areas to pay attention to when identifying potential leaks:

Toilets

A common reason why toilets leak is an old or worn toilet flapper (e.g., valve seal). Flappers are inexpensive rubber parts that can build up minerals or decay over time. Replacing them can be a quick and easy fix. To fix this leak, consult your local hardware store or licensed plumber. Bring the old flapper to the hardware store for comparison to make sure you buy a new flapper that fits your toilet model.

Faucets/Shower heads

Old and worn faucet washers and gaskets frequently cause leaks in faucets. Many tutorials are available online to show how to fix a wide variety of faucets. Some leaky shower heads can be fixed by making sure there is a tight connection between the shower head and the pipe stem. Pipe tape, or Teflon tape can help fix these leaks as well. For more complicated valve leaks in showers that drip when not in use, contact an experienced handy-person or licensed plumber.

Outdoors

If you have an in-ground irrigation system, check it each spring before use to make sure it wasn't damaged during winter or hire an irrigation professional certified by a WaterSense labeled program to inspect it for you. They will not only help you detect and correct leaks in the system, but also maximize its efficiency. Finally, check your garden hose for leaks at its connection to the spigot. If it leaks while you run your hose, replace the washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot.

Beech Mountain's Memorial Christmas Tree

While walking in the small park across the street from the Historical society recently, staff noticed an old stone monument with a brass plaque. It is dedicated to the memory of one of Beech Mountain's Volunteer Firefighters, Bob Wynn. Mr. Wynn served and lived in this community for a number of years prior to moving to Wrightsville Beach, NC. On December 6, 1981 Mr. Wynn was called to assist in fighting a fire in Wrightsville, which subsequently took his life.



Bob Wynn Memorial Tree

A group of local friends on Beech Mountain had the stone monument erected along with a plaque that makes reference to a Christmas tree that is no longer there. Staff brought in local arborist Lear Powell to inspect the site and make a recommendation. Mr. Powell recommended a Norway spruce, noting that since it is natural to the area, it would be highly resistant to the elements and is a traditional "Christmas tree". We made the request that Mr. Powell hand pick a Norway spruce for this location from local trees being harvested by the US Forest Service.

As a resort community, discussions have been held on the fact that not only is a memorial tree being replaced that was originally planted in the 1980's, but the Town is also creating a Town Christmas tree, that with proper care, will continue to grow and become a landmark that can be enjoyed by all year-round. The memorial tree stands out as a singular beacon in full color to the honor and memory of our Beech Mountain firefighter and friend and as a reminder of the special place that Beech Mountain is and will continue to be.

High Country Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Survey

Every five years the High Country Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to be reviewed and updated. One of the standards prescribed for updating the plan is to extend an opportunity for the community to participate in a public survey. You may participate in the survey by going to www.townofbeechmountain.com and click "SURVEY" on the left hand menu.



Beech Mountain EAR

January - March 2017



Beech Mountain's Chief of Police Graduates - N.C. Justice Academy's Management Development Program

Congratulations to Chief Shawn Freeman who graduated from the North Carolina Justice Academy's Management Development Program on Friday, November 18, 2016. The Management Development Program is an intensive eleven month (500 hours) course that focuses on complex law enforcement issues that affect communities across our state. Areas of study emphasized by course curriculum include comprehensive, in-depth examinations of issues facing law enforcement management and includes the application of learned management and leadership skills. The Management Development Program strives to instill law enforcement leaders with the knowledge, skills and abilities to function as a progressive leader and innovative manager within the law enforcement profession.



From left to right
Police Chief Shawn Freeman and
Course Coordinator Josh Phillips

Traction Control on Beech Mountain

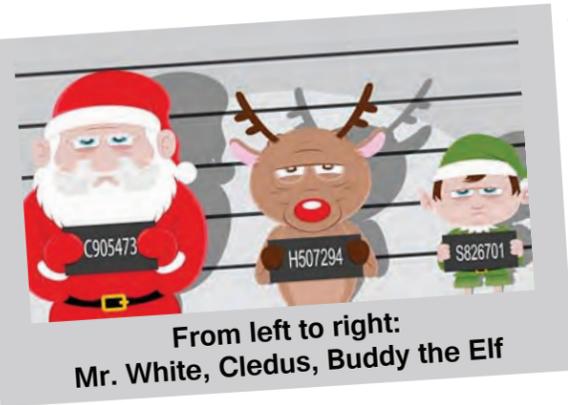
Traction on snowy roads is important for us all. This year the Town is trying a different traction control mixture on the roadways to increase safety when road conditions are snowy and icy. In the past the town has used screenings, which is basically a sand mix. We are switching to a different material which is called #9 stone (chat). It is a very fine stone, but larger than sand. This year the town is using a combination of this new material and the remaining portion of last year's supply of screenings until we fully deplete the sand we have on hand. The larger sized chat should last longer, not require as much to cover the Town's roadways, and provide greater traction and control. Another positive feature of the new chat is that it should not be as dusty this spring when it is time to sweep the roadways. So, the sand mix will be phased out after this year's use. The new chat does come with a \$10.00 per ton increase in cost that should be justifiable as motorists experience an improved difference in traction and control and less dust.



Staying Alert over the Holidays

The holidays are quickly approaching! It's time for great food and quality time spent with our family and friends. To ensure the holidays are safe and enjoyable, here are some holiday shopping safety tips. When you are shopping, be aware of your surroundings. It is proven that victims are chosen by predators due to the perception of vulnerability. When you are alert to your surroundings, you are less likely to become a victim. When shopping, park in areas that are well populated and have plenty of light. While shopping, do not leave valuables in your vehicle or shopping cart. Predators target valuables in your vehicle or purses left unattended.

A major holiday safety tip that most do not consider is shopping from the safety of your home online. When shopping online, shop trusted



From left to right:
Mr. White, Cledus, Buddy the Elf

names/sites. Look for websites with a secure connection. Those sites with secured connections will be recognizable by "https://" at the beginning of their link. Do not use embedded links in emails that you receive from companies, but instead, search for the website on your web browser. Do not share too much information when shopping online. For example, no store needs your birth date or social security number. Always use strong passwords when setting up accounts for online shopping and last but not least, check your banking statements regularly. If you see charges you did not make, address it immediately.

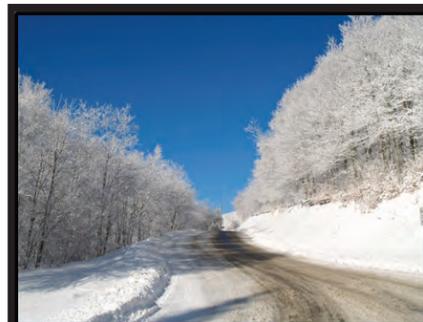
Keep yourself informed by visiting Police Department's website <http://beechmntnpolice.org/>, friending us on Facebook, and following us on Twitter. From the Beech Mountain Police Department, we hope you and your family have a happy holiday season!

Clearing Beech Mountain Right-of-Way's

In most cases the Town's road right-of-way is from the center of the road to the home owner's property line. Clearing of town right-of-way's by the Town's right-of-way crew occurs within those boundaries. The Town receives funds, called Powell Bill funds, annually from the state dedicated to the Town's overall road maintenance and right-of-way clearing. Powell Bill funds, named after Junius K. Powell, began in 1951 as a 1¢ gas tax. Town's that receive these allocations are required to meet specific criteria, one of which is the proper maintenance of right-of-ways.

While the Town strives to keep Beech Mountain as green as possible there is a necessary safety component for keeping roadways and intersections trimmed back for motorists and other users of the Town's thoroughfares. Some of you who are not with us in the winter do not see how the tree limbs and Rhododendron bow down when the mountain receives a heavy snow, potentially causing major problems for visibility on roads and intersections, and hindering snow removal efforts if not properly trimmed.

Unmaintained tree limbs can bow far into roadways when covered with heavy snow. In the summer months when everything is green, staff is preparing for winter months when everything will be covered with snow. When properly trimmed, visibility for motorists improves as well as conditions for snow removal. The electric company works pro-actively to protect their power lines from having an interruption in power service during winter months by trimming trees identified as having the potential to lay on power lines when laden with snow and high winds.



Right of Way trimmed

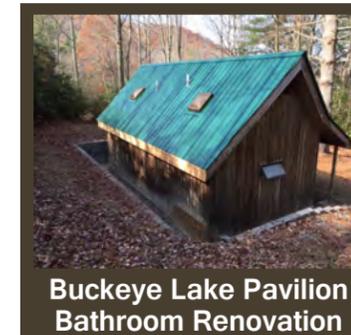
The Town's right-of-way crew works hard to clear only what is necessary while keeping Beech Mountain as green as possible. Extra attention is given to intersections to ensure visibility is maximized. These employees wear many different hats. When not clearing town right-of-ways by trimming trees and clearing out culverts and ditch lines, they can also be found tackling snow removal efforts and pothole patching paved roads and parking areas.

Fishing and Sledding Hill Enhancements

Fishing on Beech Mountain continues to grow and through the Town's partnership with NC Wildlife, the future for fishing on Beech looks bright! Beech Mountain has recently accepted the designation to be recognized as a NC Mountain Heritage Trout City. This program permits those interested in fishing the ability to purchase a three day trout fishing license for only \$5.00. To purchase a license call 1-888-248-6834, receive your license number and be on the lake casting in no time! Town of Beech Mountain bodies of water that are included as designated trout fishing areas are Buckeye Lake, Buckeye Creek, Pond Creek, and Lake Coffey.



Buckeye Lake is a very popular area for boaters, fisherman, picnics, and bonfires. To better help serve those using the recreation area, the bathroom facilities adjacent to the lake have received a great renovation and improvement this fall. The bathroom facility has a new roof and tree limbs have been cut back to provide better light and ventilation.



Buckeye Lake Pavilion Bathroom Renovation

Two new bridges have been built providing direct access to the facility from the boat dock. The pavilion overlooking Buckeye Lake is a great place for you to have a family gathering, events, birthday parties, or just grill out and take in the mountain views. The staff at Buckeye accepts reservations for the use of this pavilion. Plan ahead by calling 1-828-387-3003. Use of the pavilion is free of charge.

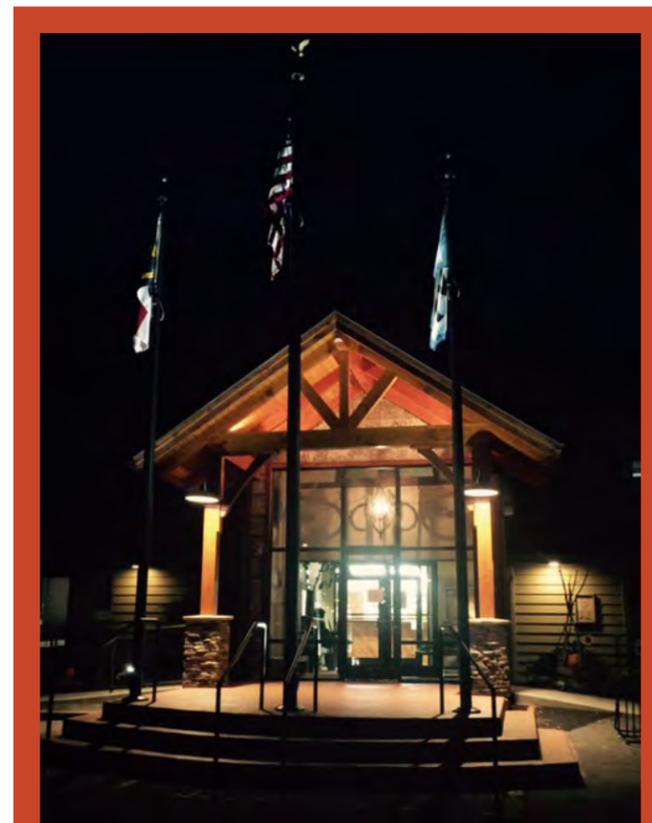
This fall, the towns sledding hill went through great improvements for safety. This year visitors will enjoy all new waterproof foam barrier pads along the fence line. The project is being completed in phases.



Phase 1 saw the installment of sixteen pads along the bottom fence. The new pads will replace the hay bales and cut down on costs and labor for the sledding hill. The project was funded by a grant provided by the Beech Mountain Tourism Development Authority. The Parks and Recreation Department thanks the TDA for their help and support to improve the town's sledding hill for everyone's enjoyment!

Town Hall Entrance

Town Hall entry way received a great face lift this fall. The entrance is very appealing, meets all building requirements, and keeps the rustic mountain feel. There are three large flags that welcome guests as they enter. One is the new Beech Mountain flag recently adopted by the Town Council. Be sure to come by and see how it all looks!



Town Hall New Entry Way